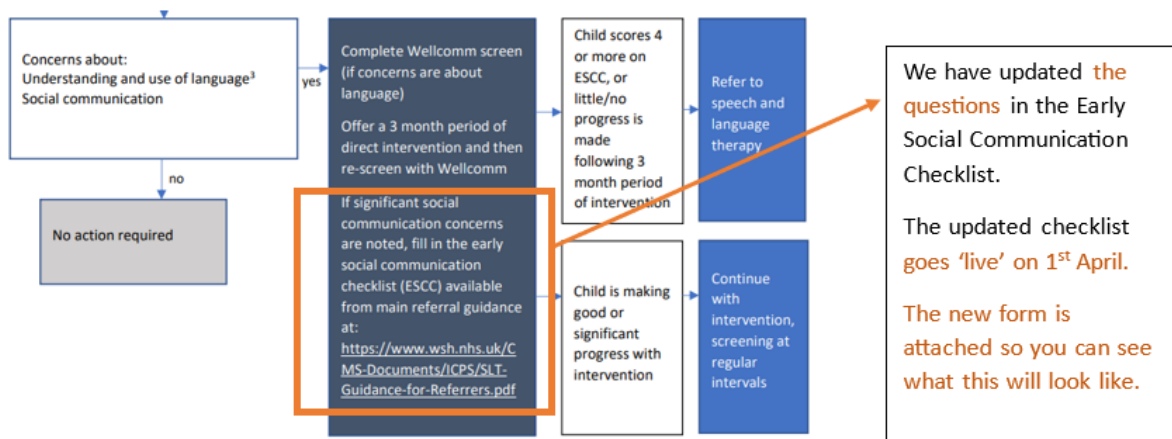


Speech and Language Therapy referral update

What's changing?

The criteria for referral and the referral process itself is **not** changing. You can continue to use the same flowchart [Quick Reference Guide to Paediatric SALT referrals - for HVs, HCPs and Early Years settings. \(wsh.nhs.uk\)](https://www.wsh.nhs.uk/Quick-Reference-Guide-to-Paediatric-SALT-referrals-for-HVs-HCPs-and-Early-Years-settings) to support your decision-making.



Why have we changed the Early Social Communication Checklist questions?

- Speech and Language Therapy are receiving an increasing number of referrals for children where social communication differences are the main reason for referral.
- Our pre-school service is divided into two pathways – Pre-school Complex Needs and Community (clinics). It is not always clear from the current Early Social Communication checklist who is best placed to work with a child/family and what their level of need is.
- The new checklist is designed to support clearer decision-making when we triage referrals, ensuring that children/families are directed to the correct support/pathway first time.

What do I need to do?

When you are completing a referral to Speech and Language Therapy and your primary reason for referral is social communication, **please use the new Early Social Communication Checklist from 01 April 2024.**

Please note that if we receive a referral with the older form after this time, we will return this to you and ask you to complete the new one.

You will need to be aware of the questions from the checklist when working with the child and may need to have further discussion with parents or carers to enable completion.

The new checklist will be updated on our website:

[Referral information for professionals \(wsh.nhs.uk\)](https://www.wsh.nhs.uk/Referral-information-for-professionals)

Please add comments/detail as well as circling 'yes/no' for each question. All your observations are extremely valuable to support our decision-making and our understanding of the child's needs.